

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

- 1 (currently amended): An image verification apparatus comprising:  
a verification unit which verifies whether a digital image included in an image file has been altered; and  
a ~~display form change control~~ unit which changes a display form of additional information included in the image file if said verification unit verifies that the digital image has been altered,  
wherein said ~~display form change control~~ unit avoids displaying the additional information if said verification unit verifies that the digital image has been altered, and  
wherein the additional information includes a ~~thumbnail thumbnail~~ image of the digital image.
- 2 (canceled).
- 3 (currently amended): The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~display form change control~~ unit displays information indicating that the digital image has been altered, if said verification unit verifies that the digital image has been altered.
- 4 (previously presented): The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional information includes information relating to the image file.
- 5 (previously presented): The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional information includes information relating to an apparatus which generates the image file.

6 (previously presented): The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said verification unit verifies whether the digital image has been altered, using a common key of common key cryptography.

7 (previously presented): The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said verification unit verifies whether the digital image has been altered, using a public key of public key cryptography.

8 (currently amended): A method of displaying additional information included in an image file, [[said]] the method comprising the steps of:

verifying whether a digital image included in the image file has been altered;  
changing a display form of the additional information included in the image file, if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered; and  
avoiding displaying the additional information if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered,

wherein wherein the additional information includes a thumbnail image of the digital image.

9 (canceled).

10 (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of: displaying information indicating that the digital image has been altered, if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered.

11 (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein the additional information includes information relating to the image file.

12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein the additional information includes information relating to an apparatus which generates the image file.

13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein a common key of common key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital image has been altered.

14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein a public key of public key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital image has been altered.

15-18 (canceled).

19 (previously presented): The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional information does not include a file name of the image file.

20 (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein the additional information does not include a file name of the image file.

21 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium that stores a program causing a computer to perform a method of displaying additional information included in an image file, the method comprising the steps of:

verifying whether a digital image included in the image file has been altered; [[and]]  
changing a display form of the additional information included in the image file, if it is  
verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered; and

avoiding displaying the additional information if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered,

wherein the additional information includes a thumbnail image of the digital image.

22 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, the method further comprising the step of:

displaying information indicating that the digital image has been altered, if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered.

23 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein the additional information includes information relating to the image file.

24 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein the additional information includes information relating to an apparatus which generates the image file.

25 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein a common key of common key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital image has been altered.

26 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein a public key of public key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital image has been altered.

27 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein the additional information does not include a file name of the image file.